

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE**



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1411 • [www.bos.lacounty.gov](http://www.bos.lacounty.gov)

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

HILDA L. SOLIS

HOLLY J. MITCHELL

LINDSEY P. HORVATH

JANICE HAHN

KATHRYN BARGER

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS  
RELATING TO GEORGE MCKINNEY  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Board approval is being requested for the distribution of reward funds in the amount of \$10,000 to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

Approve the recommendation of the Reward Committee to distribute reward funds in the amount of \$10,000 to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds to two individuals who provided information to law enforcement that led to the apprehension and conviction of Samuel Watson, who was convicted for the murder of George McKinney.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

On Wednesday, May 23, 2018, George McKinney was killed by blunt force trauma to the head during an argument in the vicinity of 8919 Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood and passed away from his injuries. The Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner determined the cause of death to be a homicide.

On June 18, 2019, the Board approved a \$10,000 reward in exchange for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the murder of George McKinney.

In February 2019, Detectives posted "information wanted flyers." On June 3, 2019, Claimant No. 1

spoke with the Detectives and provided the suspect's name, description of the suspect's vehicle, and assisted law enforcement to obtain essential evidence that led to charging the suspect with murder. Also, on June 3, 2019, Claimant No. 2 provided information on the suspect's location. According to law enforcement, both claimants provided information that led to the identity of the suspect, Samuel Watson.

On June 17, 2019, a search warrant was issued for the suspect's residence. On June 20, 2019, the suspect was apprehended and booked on murder charges. Based on the evidence obtained by law enforcement, a preliminary hearing was conducted on November 24, 2020. On September 15, 2022, Samuel Watson pled guilty and was convicted of second-degree murder charges. On November 8, 2022, the suspect was sentenced to 15 years to life.

A panel of individuals representing the Sheriff Department, Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, and the Executive Office of the Board reviewed the claims filed for the reward funds. The panel is recommending the \$10,000 reward be distributed between the two claimants who provided information to law enforcement, with \$7,000 (70%) to Claimant No. 1 and \$3,000 (30%) to Claimant No. 2. In accordance with the provisions of the Los Angeles County Code (County Code), Title 4 – Revenue and Finance, the Board must now consider the claim and make a final determination for the distribution of the reward funds.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

Approval of the above recommendation supports the County Strategic Goal II.2 – Support the Wellness of our Communities. Publication in local newspapers and posting of reward notices on the County's website may encourage persons to provide information to law enforcement, which could lead to the apprehension and/or conviction of individuals who commit crimes and removing such individuals from the community, thereby reducing violence and improving the quality of life for the residents of Los Angeles County.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The Board of Supervisors established a \$10,000 reward fund. Pursuant to provisions in the County Code, the reward is to be paid from the Board of Supervisors' discretionary funds in equal shares of \$2,000 from each Supervisor's budget.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

In 1993, the Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the County Code establishing procedures for offering cash rewards for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of persons guilty of criminal acts causing injury to persons or property. Your Board, from time to time, has offered such rewards to encourage citizens to come forward and assist law enforcement with their investigations.

The action recommended is in compliance with the County Code, Title 4 – Revenue and Finance relating to rewards, specifically Section 4.50.010B, which states, "conviction of the person or persons responsible for the crime shall be required for payment of a reward unless the Board of Supervisors makes a finding of impossibility of conviction due to the death or incapacity of such person or persons."

The Notice of Reward offered was posted on the Board of Supervisors' website and published in the Daily Commerce newspaper.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of this recommendation does not impact other current County services or projects.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Celia Zavala".

CELIA ZAVALA  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Celia Zavala, Executive Officer

c: Sheriff  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Interim Auditor-Controller